

THE
JEWISH
GAILY

FORWARD

AUGUST 1983

AV / ELUL 5743

High Holy Days — 5744

AS THE SOUND OF THE SHOFAR calls Jews around the world to mark the beginning of the New Year, 5744, a unique yet established event will be repeated in the Bay Area: our Congregation will gather for the 7th consecutive year to celebrate and worship together on Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. In keeping with tradition, there will be no ticket charge for members nor for the general public. Services will be led by the Ritual Committee, and we will be using our new Machzor for Yom Kippur for the first time, complementing our Rosh Hashanah Machzor which premiered last year.

All services will be held at the Unitarian Center, Main Sanctuary, Franklin and Geary Streets, San Francisco. The schedule for services is as follows:

Rosh Hashanah

- Wednesday, September 7, 7:30 p.m. — Evening Services
- Thursday, September 8, 10:00 a.m. — Morning Services

Yom Kippur

- Friday, September 16, 7:30 p.m. — Kol Nidre Services
- Saturday, September 17, 10:00 a.m. — Morning Services
- Saturday, September 17, 6:00 p.m. — Yiskar and Ne'ilah Services.

The Unitarian Center is wheelchair accessible, and sign language interpretation will be available.

We look forward to a healthy, happy and prosperous New Year, and we hope that all of our members and friends will join us for these services. We also urge members to complete the High Holiday Services participation form printed elsewhere in this issue so as to make these services a richer experience for us all. For further information, please call the synagogue office as 921-7612.

The Building Fund Raffle — Such a Prize!

BY NOW, YOU'RE PROBABLY WELL AWARE that one of the more glamorous phases of our Building Campaign is underway: the raffle of a **Rolls Royce!** Yes, we are raffling a 1969 Silver Shadow Rolls Royce. The Rolls, valued as \$27,000, has been donated by an anonymous donor to the Congregation for use in our Building Campaign. Each raffle ticket sells for \$50, but only 1,500 will be sold — thereby increasing each purchaser's chance of winning. The drawing will be held Sunday, October 9.

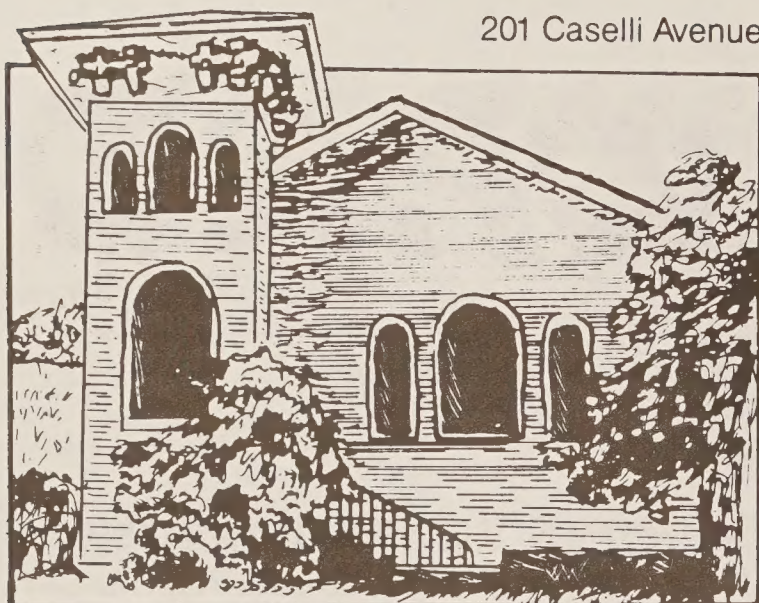
Tickets may be obtained at Friday night services, through the Congregation office (921-7612) or by contacting Joe Pareti at 989-8350. Checks should be made payable to the Congregation Sha'ar Zahav Building Campaign. Donations to the Campaign are, of course, tax deductible.



*Slightly Used Rolls — Only \$50!
(Discrete Vehicle Seeks
New Owner in Sha'ar Zahav Raffle)*

Our Goal. . .

201 Caselli Avenue



Please Note:

Our regular Shabbat services are now held at
201 Caselli Avenue (corner of Danvers),
The Reorganized Church of Latter Day Saints,
Our Future Home!

The Jewish Gaily *Forward* is published 12 times annually by Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, PO Box 5640, San Francisco, California 94101, (415) 921-7612. Permission to reproduce non-copyrighted material is freely given, credit would be appreciated.

All newsletter copy should be typed, double-spaced and is due on the 10th of the month. It should be sent to the Synagogue office, marked to the attention of the *Forward*.

Members of the Newsletter Committee are Alex Ingersoll and Leila Raim (editorial and production), Bart Benderoff, Alan Schrager and Barry Siegel (distribution).

The display advertising rate is \$10 per column inch with a frequency discount of 10% for six or more insertions. The Advertising deadline is the 10th of the month. Ads should be camera ready. Any advertising that requires typesetting, camera and/or artwork is subject to a one-time production charge. Payment must accompany order and should be sent to the Synagogue Office, marked attention *Forward* advertising. For more information on advertising rates and charges, call the Synagogue Office 921-7612.

Building Contributions Mounting

THE TOTAL CASH AND PLEDGES in the Caselli Avenue Building Fund at press time is approximately \$130,000. Our Campaign Thermometer shows the total cash raised to date. We are thankful to all those who have made contributions to the Building Campaign so far, and in particular wish to recognize contributors in the following categories:

Platinum (above \$10,000): W. Leiss.

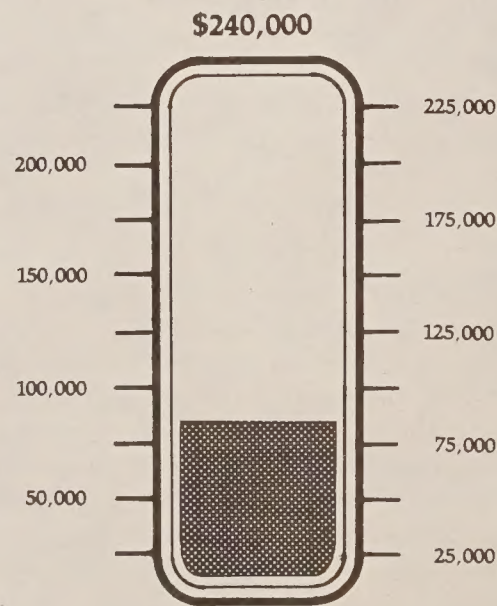
Gold (\$5,000 - \$9,999): Al Baum, Seth C., Mike Rankin, Jerry Rosenstein, Mike Zimmerman.

Silver (\$2,500 - \$4,999): Bart Benderoff, Allan Berenstein, Frank Hyman, Alex Ingersoll/David Stein, Mike Lipson, Irene Ogus, Ralph Vissell, Ron Wolberg.

Bronze (\$1,000 - \$2,499): Don Albert, Joan Blazewick, Paul Cohen, Steve Elman, Mike Freedland, Allan Gold, Brad Gould, Bruce Hansen, Betty Kalis, Stephen Klein, Robert Levy, Ron Lezell, Charles Norton, Cheryl Orvis, Leila Raim, Steven Rosenberg, Yolanda S., Tom Rothgiesser/George Lucas, Rob Tat, Sam Thal.

For any further information regarding the Building Campaign, please call Don Albert (826-0785) for general information, Irene Ogus (824-7031) or Paul Cohen (929-9524) for information regarding Fundraising, or the Synagogue office (921-7612).

A HOME OF OUR OWN!
Congregation Sha'ar Zahav
דבית שלנו



**Cash Raised
Caselli Avenue Building Fund**

"Adonai has chosen you to build a house for the sanctuary.
Be strong and do it."—1 Chronicles (28:10)

HELP! The Support of Your Friends and Relatives Is Needed

A SECOND NEW BROCHURE has been prepared and is now available for sending to friends and relatives to tell them about our Building Campaign. This brochure was created to elicit contributions from the general Jewish and gay/lesbian communities.

Besides carrying an endorsement list of 60 well-known Bay Area community leaders, the brochure features photographs of and very supportive quotes from Mayor Dianne Feinstein, Congresswoman Sala Burton, State Senator Milton Marks and Rabbi Morris Hershman.

This brochure is an ideal way to solicit the support of relatives and friends outside the Bay Area, either in the form of general donations or raffle ticket sales. It is available in large quantities, so don't hesitate to take a handful and mail them out to friends and family. They are available each Friday evening at services or by contacting the Congregation office (921-7612).

* * *

Since you've now become a fundraiser for "A Home of Our Own" on Caselli Avenue, and just in case the brochure leaves something out, the following description of the building might be helpful in describing our future home to your friends and relatives:

The building was erected in 1907 by the Reorganized Church of Latter Day Saints and has been used by them continuously as a house of worship. It contains an appealing 1140 sq. ft. beamed-ceiling A-frame sanctuary. The sanctuary is carpeted with seating for up to 150 persons and can be enlarged if necessary. The building has a concrete foundation, redwood frame and clapboard exterior. There is also a 200 sq. ft. bimah, a 944 sq. ft. second floor meeting room, a small meeting room behind the sanctuary, an office, kitchen, two bathrooms and a 600 sq. ft. basement.

The building is located in a hilly, middle class Upper Market residential neighborhood of San Francisco, and it is near major bus lines. The annual cost of maintaining the building will be approximately the same as the amount the Congregation has been paying to rent facilities.

From Lamentations to Limericks

There's a shul in old San Franciscay
With membership sometimes risqué
Still bound by tradition
And enriched by great erudition
Said they, "We'll buy this building come what may!"

I.O.

And a Word from the Chair

AS WE ENTER THE FINAL STAGES of the campaign for "A Home of Our Own," it occurs to me that there many of our new members and friends don't know the history of our three-year search. I would like to state this briefly, using relevant dates so as to give everybody an understanding of this search and the importance of our goal:

April 1980 — Congregation Sha'ar Zahav begins serious discussions regarding development of 1881 Bush Street, formerly Ohabai Shalome.

December 1980 — We learn that if we can raise funds necessary to rehabilitate we can enter into some form of agreement.

May 1981 — We hire a fund-raising consultant and begin organizing the Building Campaign.

October 1981 — We hire an attorney to negotiate the acquisition of Bush Street.

January 1982 — S.F. Redevelopment Agency decides that property must be reappraised before it can be sold (our negotiations with them up until that point had been based on the original appraisal value).

May 1982 — The current tenants of the property are unwilling to proceed with any negotiations with us. The Redevelopment Agency is unable to ask them to leave — a stalemate exists.

October 1982 — The Va'ad reconstitutes the Building Search Committee to explore alternative sites.

January 1983 — We learn of availability of Caselli Avenue property.

February 1983 — Va'ad and Building Committee meet for five hours to discuss how we should best proceed.

May 1983 — The Congregation votes to purchase Caselli Avenue as "A Home of Our Own."

June 1983 — Building Campaign Committee formed.

July 1983 — \$130,000 in cash and pledges; \$75,000 in the bank. We're on our way!

Our task continues to be to obtain pledges from those members who have not pledged yet, to solicit donations from our families, friends and associates and to sell as many raffle tickets as we can. In the next few weeks, everybody must start to redeem their pledges. Remember that our offer requires that we produce \$200,000 in cash by the end of September.

The Congregation has grown from April 1980 to July 1983. It has suffered some of the pangs of that growth — has learned an enormous amount — and has developed some extraordinarily talented leaders and has proven its stability in the community. The time is right, the place is right, the price is right! We continue to fill our destiny. "A Home of Our Own" will surely be an integral part of all our dreams.

— Irene Ogus
Chair, Fundraising
Building Campaign Committee

Help us have a home of our own

Mike's Column

A Matter of Priorities

IT'S BEEN NO FUN these past months watching our Catholic and Protestant friends attempting to gain acceptance from the Archdiocese and from the National Council of Churches. We can only admire their integrity, fortitude and political savvy, and wish them well as their struggle continues.

And I suppose it's only human for us to feel a little sense of relief that our parent organization is the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, which in many ways has been very accepting of us as gay men and women, Reform congregations with a "gay/lesbian outreach" have had no difficulty being voted into the Union. The local UAHC staff and lay leadership have been most helpful to us in a number of areas. We led a workshop on Judaism and homosexuality at the regional UAHC convention in Stockton last fall and were received with warmth and genuine interest.

But not all is well between the Union and the approximately 10% of its members who are lesbian or gay.

The success of the Stockton experience encouraged us to plan a similar workshop for the national meeting in Houston this November. We anticipated a panel, made up of members of the three "gay" congregations in the UAHC. We hoped to cover such issues as: gays and their parents; the existence and need for "gay" synagogues; Biblical perspectives on homosexuality; homophobia; etc.

In June, I was informed by Rabbi Leonard Schoolman, who is coordinating the conference, that there would be no meeting space in the convention hotels and no room on a crowded program for our workshop. To assure me that this was simply a space crunch, and not homophobia, Rabbi Schoolman told me there would also be no presentations on women's issues, on the Falashas, or on gun control, despite the requests that had been received for such presentations.

It's hard to know how to respond to such a statement. Surely a lot of work still has to be done within the Union to sensitize the national leadership and the priority setters to the importance of all these issues. No doubt the issues that will be discussed are important ones. But, so is continuing discrimination against women. So is the painful estrangement between gay people and their parents. And so is the death of Jewish children — or any children — from malnutrition in the refugee camps in the Sudan.

In any case, we have been advised to wait until after Labor Day to see whether a cancellation might open up space for us.

Meanwhile, the Building Campaign is in high gear. There is still a lot of work to do, and the deadline is very close! Is it too soon to begin planning the dedicatory service — the service when 201 Caselli officially becomes a synagogue and our home? Maybe on a beautiful fall Shabbat in mid-October?

These lines were written on July 1st. I'll be up in Alaska until July 17th, and the Newsletter Committee is very strict about their tenth-of-the-month deadline, so I had to get it written before I left. It seems strange to be writing New Year's greetings on July 1st, but, in fact the High Holy Days are very early this year, and the September Forward may

not reach you before Erev Rosh Hashana. But, then wishing all of you L'Shana Tova on July 1st is only one of the many things I've done for the first time since I found Sha'ar Zahav. Others include marching down Market Street singing "Hinei Ma Tov," becoming Bar Mitzvah and getting involved with the rescue of Ethiopian and Russian Jews. Where were we when I needed us years ago? No matter. We're here now, for all of us.

May it be, for all of us, for Israel, and for all the world, a year of health and peace; a year when the nightmare of AIDS goes the way of polio and smallpox, into the unlamented past; when the Jews of Ethiopia and the Soviet Union are free to go home to Eretz Israel; and when Israel and all the lands and peoples of the Middle East find permanent peace. If we will it, it need not be a dream.

Shalom,

— Mike

Attention All Closet Jocks and Jockettes!

GET OUT OF THE CLOSET and onto the volleyball court! This may be your last chance to show off all that hard work at the gym! The Social Program Committee is pleased to announce a day of "Fun and Frolic in the Park!" on Sunday, August 7, 1983. We've reserved the Pioneer Log Cabin Picnic Area in Golden Gate Park (adjacent to Stowe Lake) from 11-7 So, pack a lunch, grab your reflectors, and your nicest, dress gym socks and Be There! We are in desperate need of cheerleaders and kibbitzers for the sidelines, so all non-jocks are also very welcome. For further info., contact Mark Mendelow at 854-2276.

Women's Chavurah Picnic

On Sunday, August 21, 1983 at 1:00 p.m., the Women's Chavurah will have a picnic at the home of Alita Rosenfeld and her "extended" family. Please bring your own food and beverages. Alita will supply a swimming pool, hot tub and Weber Barbecue at her home; tennis courts and a park are across the street. The address and directions will be sent in an announcement to woman members of the Congregation and will be available from the synagogue office (921-7612).

Like to Talk about Money?

The Finance Committee does just that once a month and is looking for few new members to share this responsibility. Interested congregants in good standing are encouraged to attend meetings to see if their future is with the Finance Committee. All this new blood will enable some of the older members (in tenure, not age) to devote more of their considerable talents to other committees. Meetings are held once a month, generally on the third Monday of the month, about 7:15 p.m., at the home of Gerry Rosenstein (2865 Jackson St., S.F., phone 921-0581).

1983

AUGUST

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	אב 1	אז 2	אח 3 Women's Chavurah Steering Committee	אט 4 Miami Conference through 7th	אז 5 Rabbi Greenebaum	אז 6
אז 7 Volleyball/Picnic Golden Gate Park	אט 8 Finance Committee	אז 9	אח 10 Newsletter Deadline	אב 11 Rosh Chodesh A	אז 12 Rosh Chodesh B	אז 13
אח 14	אז 15 Va'ad Meeting	אז 16	אח 17	אט 18	אז 19 Rookie Night	אח 20
אז 21 Women's Chavurah Picnic	אז 22	אז 23	אט 24	אז 25 Ritual Committee	אז 26	אח 27
אז 28	אז 29	אח 30 East Bay Lunch Group 821-7846	אז 31			

Ritual Calendar

Friday,
August 5
Torah: Re'eh, Deut. 11:26-16:17
Haftarah: Isaiah 54:11-55:5
Rabbi Gary Greenebaum, Guest Service
Leader

Friday
August 12
Torah: Shofetim, Deut. 16:18-21:9
Haftarah: Isaiah 51:12-52:12
Paul Cohen, Services

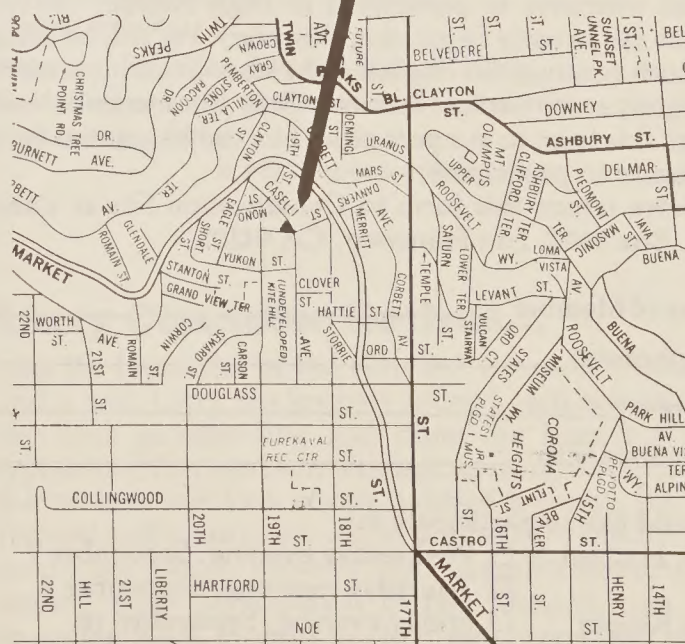
Friday
August 19
"Rookie" Service
Torah: Ki Tetze, Deut. 21:10-25:19
Haftarah: Isaiah 54:1-10
Joanne Woolf, Coach

Friday
August 26
Torah: Ki Tavo, Deut. 26:1-29:8
Haftarah: Isaiah 60:1-22
Torah Service
Steve Greenberg and Leslie Bergson,
Services
Garry Koenigsberg, Haftarah

Services are held each Friday night at 8:15 at the Reorganized Church of Latter Day Saints, 201 Caselli Avenue (corner of Danvers).

OUR NEW HOME!

201 Caselli Avenue



Nearest Muni:

#33 Ashbury at 18th & Danvers
(The #33 Ashbury operates on a 20-minute headway)

The Meaning Of Rosh Chodesh

ROSH CHODESH celebrates the new moon. We should all try moon watching. It is a beautiful and peaceful experience. The difference between calculated and observed time is quite dramatic. Calculated time is a mathematical product of mind alone; observed time, perceived time, is the product of eye-mind involvement with the moon. Calculated time is homogeneous and repetitious; each day is 24 hours. Observed time is different each night; the moon manifests birth and growth, fullness and fading, death and rebirth.

Judaism did not abandon observed time despite the development of a calculated calendar. The importance of moon watching persists to this day in certain ceremonies, (Kiddush haLevanah or Birkhat haLevanah).

To our eyes, the moon, like all heavenly bodies, appears to move from east to west, but she travels more slowly than the sun. One might say she lags behind the sun about 48 minutes per day. Around Rosh Chodesh—the beginning of the lunar month—she sets in the west shortly after sunset, and each day she sets some 45-50 minutes later. By full moon she is rising in the east at about the same time the sun is setting in the west. (Hence Pesach, Sukkot, Tu B'Shevat and Purim are fine times to see an almost simultaneous sunset-moonrise in the evening and a moonset-sunrise in the morning.)

Lagging further and further behind the sun, near the end of the lunar month she is rising in the east nearer and nearer to sunrise. Finally, for three days she rises and sets so close

(continued on page 8)

High Holiday Services Participation

The Congregation would like to provide an opportunity for all members to participate in High Holiday Services (which fall in early September this year). We will be assigning both readings (in English and Hebrew) and ceremonial functions at the various services. Only those members who return this form to our post office box can be assured an opportunity to participate.

Please return this form to Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, P.O. Box 5640, San Francisco, CA 94101.

Name of Member _____

Telephone(s) _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

I would like to participate at:

Rosh Hashonah ☐ Wednesday evening, September 7

☐ Thursday morning, September 8

Yom Kippur ☐ Friday evening, September 16

☐ Saturday morning, September 17

☐ Saturday afternoon, September 17

☐ Any service

☐ I can read Hebrew well

The Women's Chavurah Shabbaton

B'rachot and Bran Muffins

EIGHTEEN WOMEN (Chai, again!) participated in the Shabbaton sponsored by the Women's Chavurah on June 18th. The goal of the event was, in the short run, to make women feel more comfortable and knowledgeable around the synagogue, and, in the long run, to provide us with increased participation of women in services.

The Shabbaton, being a typical Sha'ar Zahav event, began with a meal — bagels, bran muffins, cream cheese, coffee and exotic fruit juices. We then divided into two groups, led by the female members of the Ritual Committee.

Joanne led the beginners' group, which learned the basic components of a Friday night service, including tunes, translations of prayers, and when and why we rise and bow at certain times. In the intermediate group, Leslie and Ellyn discussed the history and origins of the prayers in the Kabbalat Shabbat (Welcoming the Sabbath) and Ma'ariv (Evening) services, and how they come together to form a meaningful service.

Some productive ideas arose, including the need for more educational events, and the importance of making them available to the men of the Congregation as well. The most immediate was the inspiration for the upcoming 'Rookie' service (a rookie being defined as anyone who has never led a Sha'ar Zahav service). Our women rookies, impressed with their newly gained knowledge, are eager to help lead that service on August 19th.

Ritual Committee Plans a Busy August

In most synagogues, August is a rather uneventful month, since everyone's energy is focused on September and High Holidays. So, in a daring break with tradition, Sha'ar Zahav's Ritual Committee has planned two special services for the months of August.

- On August 5th, we will be honored to have Rabbi Gary Greenebaum as our guest to lead the service. Rabbi Greenebaum is the director of San Francisco Hillel.

- August 19th is 'Rookie' Night at Sha'ar Zahav. Services will be led by members of the Congregation who have never led services before ... but, perhaps, have always wanted to. Joanne Woolf will be coaching the team, and we know it will be a major league event.

We hope you'll join us on these Friday evenings, and, since Sha'ar Zahav services are never *not* special, on the other Friday evenings in August as well.

Contributions

All contributions to Sha'ar Zahav are listed in the *Forward* unless otherwise requested. Contributions of any denomination are gratefully accepted and acknowledged.

Yom Kippur Machzor

Therefore Choose Life!

THE RITUAL COMMITTEE has been hard at work for several months writing the materials for the new Machzor for Yom Kippur, which will be called *Machzor U'v'charta Bachayim* (Therefore Choose Life!). Although the entire book will not debut until our Yom Kippur services in September, a little preview wouldn't hurt, right? The following passage is the reading before Yizkor.

*Striding through the solemn morning
The white-garbed men
The women in shawls and headcovering
Follow the crooked streets to the house of study.
The air stirs with coming winter
The month of Tishre has moved into autumn
And the Day of Atonement has come
—Let it approach us for good.*

*"A gutte yahr, Sarah;" "L'shana tova, Reb Gershon!"
"An easy fast" "A good year for all of us"
"May God only hear your words" "Shah—the chazan
begins!"*

*Worshippers sob in the morning prayers
Their need is so great, for peace, for God.
But their anguished faces shine—can it be?—
With joy.
This is the day of promise; this day will remove
The evil of Israel and the evil of the world.
Enough prayer will break the veils that hide the Light;
A strong enough flame in the worshippers' souls
And heaven itself must soften and melt
Surely the messiah would have to appear!*

*The torah scrolls, wrapped in white
Are lifted from the ark.
And the words of the prophets are read:
Is not this the fast I have chosen
To share food with the hungry
And clothe the poor
And not hide yourself from each other's needs?*

And the worshippers, swaying, say Yes! in their hearts; we need only try harder; this year be more just, this year reach higher to heaven. And the rule of God will return to earth, and the rule of the Tsar and the emperor go where they deserve.

Now the synagogue grows even quieter; the faint cries of the childrens' voices are heard in the courtyard, but only the misfortuneds' voices remained in the sanctuary. The time of Yizkor had come. God filled with mercy, enthroned on high, remember

*My mother
My child
My spouse
My friend*

*Remember their souls in mercy, shelter them
Beneath Your wings and give them peace.*

And then the tears would flow. This man worked to feed me, nurtured me, taught me to say the prayers. This woman's bravery and toil kept me and my sisters from begging in the streets; every Shabbas her thin hands would light the candles. For twenty years this friend shared my bench in the house of study; each day we argued, we explained, we fought over the hidden meaning of the gemorrah, one's arm on the other's shoulder.

Now they are under the wings of the Shechina—as though that were a little village I could easily walk to. I want them still with me! I cannot continue with no guiding hand, no Shabbas lights, an empty study bench. I pray with all my heart that their memory live among us, that they find all the rest and happiness and peace that can be for them. But on this holiday of solemn joy, what joy can I find? Shall Yizkor shelter me in peace? Having lost my bond into life with the love that is departed, what is there to dry my tears and grant me rest?

So at the time of Yizkor, the old house of study wept. The children stayed outside; the prayers wept with the burden of their message; the worshippers wept with the pain of their loss and their memories. And with their tears they yet affirmed the God of life: "Magnified and sanctified, Name of Greatness! Far, far beyond the praises contained in what you created." The mourner's Kaddish, like every Kaddish, praise for the Creator; but words too for the ones at Kizkor. "That wonderful peace You have in heaven—we need it here; here in the land of unlit candles, and empty study benches, and breaking hearts. Here Is where Your peace is needed."

And from far off, inside, some peace would come. Not easy, not enough, but so much that life could continue, that memory could be borne.

*Y'hei shlama raba min shamaya,
v'chaiyim aleinu v'al kal yisrael,
v'imru amain*

*May a great peace descend from heaven,
And life be given, to us and to all the world;
and we say, Amen.*

© 1983 Congregation Sha'ar Zahav

Larry Chandler Retires...

...as the typesetter of the *Forward*. For more than a year and a half, Larry has lovingly nursed each issue through the final proofreading and done the beautiful job of typesetting that has been, in large measure, responsible for the professional look of our finished product. We of the *Forward* staff want to say a special thanks to him for all his hard work. We are, however, glad to report that Larry is not retiring from participation in our Congregation. After spending a few months in New York, Larry will be back among us, working on other projects for the continued growth and well-being of Sha'ar Zahav. Many, many thanks, Larry - from all of us!

August Happy Birthdays

1	Barry Benenson	14	Carole Migden
2	Joel Roman	19	Paul Cohen
3	Joe B.	22	Bob Schoen
4	Jonathan Funk	23	Frank Hyman
7	Marc Eichenholtz	23	Mike Lipson
7	John Golebowski	30	Robyn Meltzer
7	Dena Petersen	30	Marilyn Miller
9	Allan Gold	30	Shelley Spiro

August Yahrzeits

- 1 Sadie Katz Built, Great Aunt of Bruce Katz
- 10 Celia Katz, Grandmother of Bruce Katz
- 20 Arthur H. Klein, Father of Elliott Klein
- 20 Moe Harris, Grandfather of Norman Burns
- 21 Harry Benenson, Father of Barry Benenson
- 21 Jacob Segal, Father of Carol Segal
- 21 Ann Cohn, Mother of Herbert Cohn
- 29 (20 Elul) Francies Cohen, Sister of Bernard Pechter

Exciting Career Opportunities Offered

The Newsletter Committee is eager for new recruits — raw or seasoned. We meet at mid-month to finalize the copy for the next month's issue and discuss ideas for upcoming months. Then after typesetting, paste-up and printing are taken care of, we meet again the last week of the month to mail our latest glorious issue. Anyone who is interested in helping with editing, writing, advertisements, illustrations or helping with the mailing, please contact Alex Ingersoll (648-4818) or leave a message at the synagogue office (921-7612). Your participation could even help get the *Forward* in the mail on time!

Gay?

Jewish?

Not a member of Sha'ar Zahav?

**A
SCHANDE!**

To receive a membership application, simply request one by phoning the Sha'ar Zahav office at 921-7612, write to Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, P.O. Box 5640, San Francisco, CA 94101, or pick one up at services, every Friday night at 8:15 at our new home, 201 Caselli Avenue (corner of Danvers).

Rosh Chodesh (continued from page 6)

to the sun that she is quite invisible. Following this she is a new moon once again, and eyes turn westward just after sunset. Moon watch for a few months and feel what you see, then see what you feel and let thinking follow!

Because Rosh Chodesh celebrates the new moon, it begins the new month. For 30-day months there are two days of Rosh Chodesh; one on the 30th day of the old month and one on the first day of the new month. For months with 29 days, only a one day Rosh Chodesh is celebrated—on the first day of the new month. Nisan, Sivan, Av, Tishri, and Shevat, are 30-day months. Iyar, Tammuz, Elul, and Tevet are 29-day months. Heshvan, Kislev and Adar will vary.

Rosh Chodesh is commemorated by a special Musaf, part of the Amidah, part of Hallel, and a Torah reading of Numbers 28:1-15. In the Bible, it was a day of festive meals, visiting prophets and not doing business. The Shabbat before Rosh Chodesh is called Shabbat Mevarekhim. The exact time of the new moon is announced and certain prayers are said. Some people have a custom of singing some part of the order of prayers to a melody associated with the month, e.g., "Maoz Tsur" for Kislev—the month when Hannukah occurs.

Some people used to light candles both at the synagogue and at home, and prepared a festive meal to celebrate Rosh Chodesh. These are pleasant and meaningful ways to sharpen one's appreciation for Rosh Chodesh and the rebirth of the moon.

Traditionally, Rosh Chodesh is celebrated as a women's festival. It has been a custom that women do not work on Rosh Chodesh as a reward for their refusal, during the Exodus, to volunteer their jewelry for the making of the golden calf. This reinforces the beautiful feminine imagery so apparent in the cycle of the moon, and Rosh Chodesh can be seen as a real celebration of the feminine.

Classified Ads

Classified Ads are \$1.00 for up to 20 words, additional words at 5c each. The *Forward* reserves the right to reject any ad for reasons of taste. Place your classified ad by sending in your ad with the correct fee to Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, PO Box 5640, San Francisco, 94101, att: Forward. Please note, this column is for the use of members only.

Feminist therapist sensitive to all issues including: physical disabilities, chronic illness, and death and dying. Nanci Stern, in San Francisco, 863-5081. Sliding scale fees.

David R. Gellman is pleased to announce the opening of his new office for the general practice of law at 45 Franklin Street, San Francisco, CA 94102, 621-2966.

Letters

The *Jewish Gaily Forward* welcomes letters. Please keep them brief. The *Forward* reserves the right to edit letters. Send letters to Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, PO Box 5640, San Francisco 94101, attention *Forward* letters.